

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

--1. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus capable of transmitting information to a terminal device, comprising:

receiving means for receiving a request signal transmitted from the terminal device;

user identifier generating means for generating a user identifier corresponding to the request signal;

generation source identifier storage means for storing a generation source identifier identifying a source where the user identifier is generated, wherein the generation source identifier is allocated from an external apparatus; and

transmitting means for transmitting the user identifier and the generation source identifier to the terminal device.

--2. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the receiving means receives the request signal requesting the information processing apparatus to issue a user password identifying a user operating the terminal device and to issue an introduction password indicating the generation source of the user password.

--3. (Previously Presented) The information processing

apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the receiving means receives individual information of the user operating the terminal device.

--4. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the receiving means receives a request signal requesting issue of the user password and the introduction password that are used for accessing homepage information contained within an other information processing apparatus, and the introduction password specifies the homepage information of the information processing apparatus that introduces the homepage information of the other information processing apparatus.

--5. (Original) The information processing apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising individual information storage means for storing the received individual information.

--6. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the user identifier generating means generates a user password corresponding to the received individual information, and transfers the generated user password to the individual information storage means that stores the transferred user password correspondingly to the individual information.

--7. (Previously Presented) The information processing

apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the generation source identifier storage means stores the generation source identifier identifying homepage information.

--8. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the generation service identifier storage means stores an introduction password as the generation source identifier identifying the homepage information.

--9. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the user identifier and the generation source identifier are used when the terminal device accesses information contained within an other information processing apparatus, and the transmitting means transmits the user identifier and the generation source identifier to the other information processing apparatus.

--10. - 19. (Cancelled)

--20. (Currently Amended) An information processing method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request transmitted from a terminal device;
generating a user identifier corresponding to the request; and

transmitting the generated user identifier and a generation source identifier to the terminal device, wherein

said generation source identifier is allocated from an external apparatus and stored in an information processing apparatus and identifies a source where the user identifier is generated.

--21. (Cancelled)